

Secular Students and Interfaith

secular
student
alliance

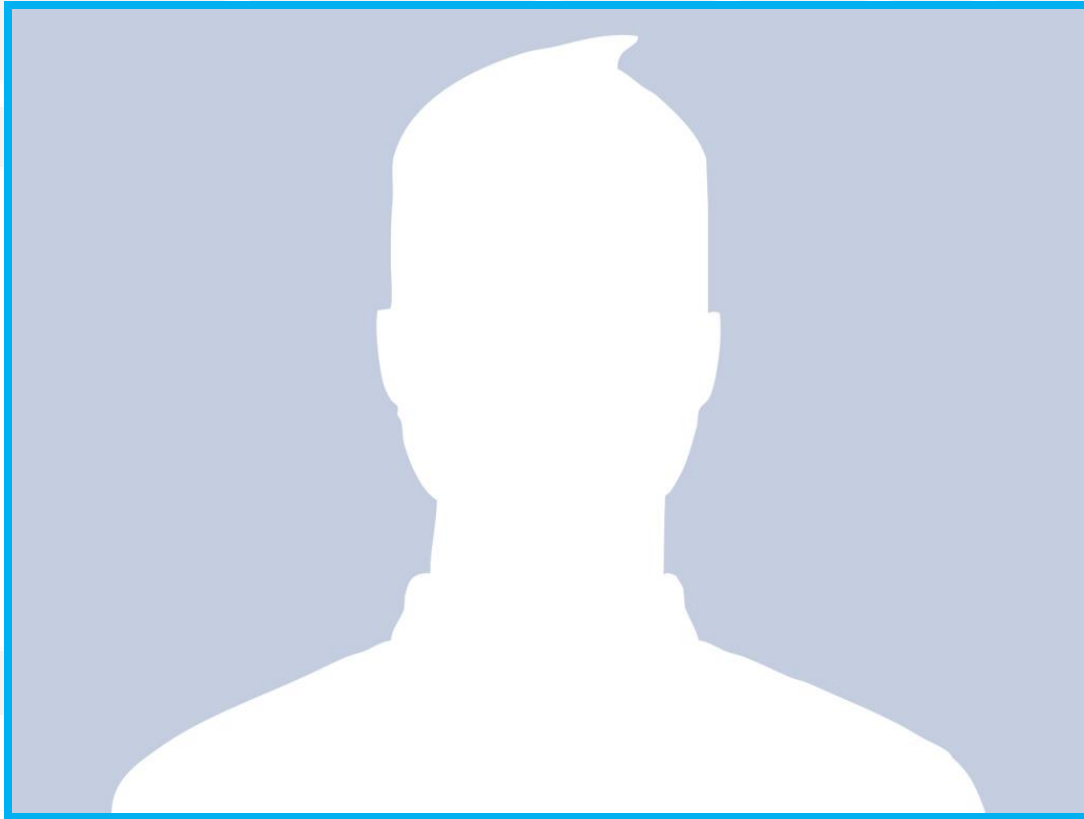
Who We Are

secular
student
alliance

Who We Are



Hypothetic AI



Hypothetic Al's Story

- Atheist
- Southern Baptist family (estranged)
- Leader in his college's SSA group
- Interfaith Ministry on campus
- SSA is invited to participate in dialogue
- Al is sole atheist representative
 - Flooded with Q's
- No longer interested in interfaith engagement

Issues

- Language
- Representation
- Communication
- Understanding
- Trauma

Non-Inclusive Language

- "Interfaith" isn't great
- "faith"
- "ministry"
- "mission"
- "chapel"
- "spiritual"
- "belief"
- There is no perfect term

Inclusive Language

Use Qualifiers and subheadings, such as:

- "Worldviews"
- "Philosophical traditions"
- "Pluralism"
- "...and those with no religion"
- "atheist and agnostic"
- "secular"
- "non-religious"

Representation

- Diverse Programming
- Avoid Tokenism
- Inclusive Messaging

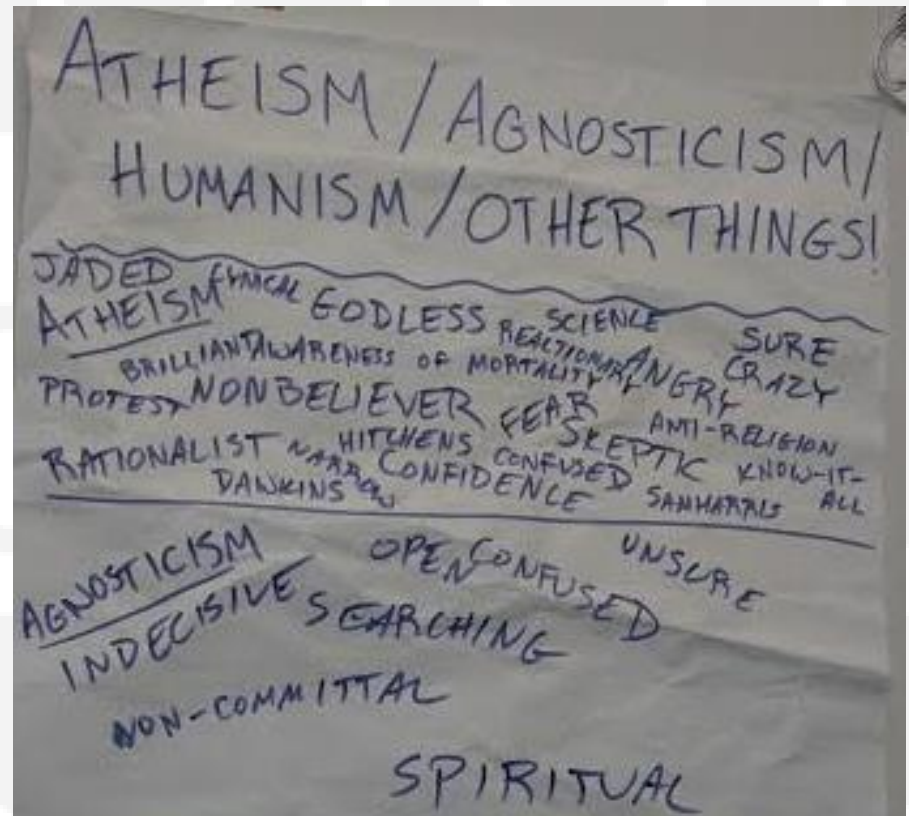


Communication

- Seculars won't assume they are included
 - Exclusion
 - Remember **language**: it has an impact
- Deliberate outreach
 - Promote yourself
 - Campus secular organizations
 - **Representation** in Outreach
- Majority of SSA groups do Interfaith work
 - Do they know you are there?

Understanding

- Tokenism
- Bias / Privilege
 - Word association
 - "cynical"
 - "crazy"
 - "angry"
 - "jaded"
 - "confused"
 - "non-committal"



Understanding

“Educators must be cognizant that although students claim they appreciate diverse others, **there are particular populations about whom students are less inclined to have appreciative attitudes**...students may not be aware of the dissonance between their espoused value of diversity and the attitudes that they have toward specific others.”

-IDEALS Emerging Interfaith Trends,
2016

Trauma

- Leaving religion can be very hard
 - Loss of family
 - Loss of friends
 - Loss of support
- Religious experiences can be negative
- Some won't want to be involved
 - "No" is ok

Positive Examples



Developing Holistically

Being Authentic



www.unf.edu/interfaith-center/

Founders Hall, Suite 2100 (Bldg. 2/ Rm. 2100)

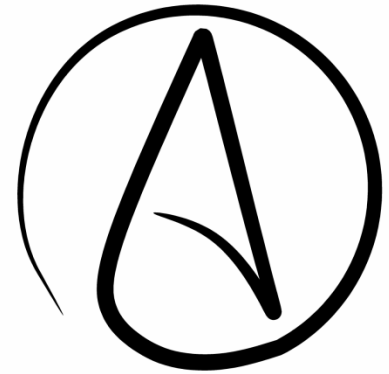
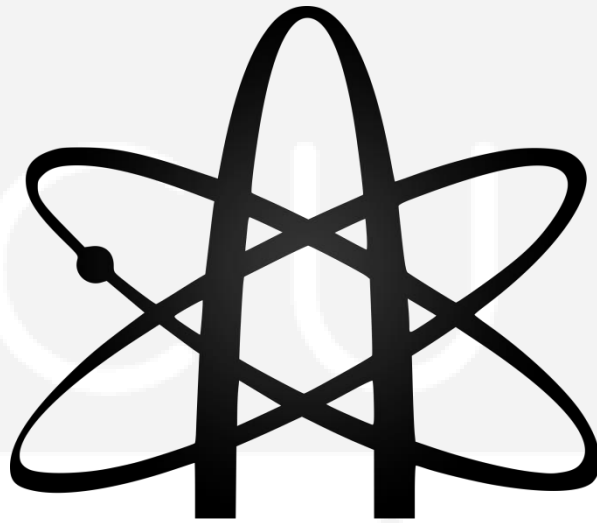
1 UNF Drive; Jacksonville, FL 32224

Funded by Student Government

Division of Student Affairs

Facebook: UNF Interfaith Center

(904) 620-2837



secular
student
alliance

Interfaith Initiatives

Stetson University celebrates the existence of religious diversity among the campus community and strives to equip students from various religious and non-religious backgrounds to work together in cooperation.

We seek to recognize the commonalities and differences among world views, increase awareness and understanding, and provide opportunities for social cohesion among students.

"Interfaith cooperation isn't just for students who belong to religious traditions; it's also for students who possess a desire for social change."





Home

Rhodes's Better Together (Interfaith Ministries)

The current Interfaith "Better Together" representatives and their religious affiliation are listed below:

Interfaith Rhodes Student Associate:

Tara Connors- Atheist (conte-16@rhodes.edu)

Interfaith Kinney Coordinators:

Eric Adamcik- Presbyterian Christian (adaer-16@rhodes.edu)

Zain Virk- Muslim (virzm-18@rhodes.edu)

You are welcome to contact any of the members for more information about the Interfaith Campaign at Rhodes College.



THE INTERFAITH STORY

STUDENTS AS LEADERS

IFYC
INTERFAITH YOUTH CORE



CAMPUSES AS MODELS

ABOUT IFYC

SEARCH IFYC

[DONATE NOW](#)



Interfaith Youth Core

Our interfaith leaders are building a movement of people from all faiths and traditions who are working together to change the world.



secular



Search Kaufman Interfaith Institute



Interfaith Service

Interfaith Service is an effort to cultivate community engagement through community service by building bridges between diverse traditions in West Michigan. Coordinated by Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute, and holding the belief that religion can be a tool for peace, the goal is to inspire cooperation and meaningful action between various religious and non-religious communities. We aim to empower our community to not only serve our neighbors, but to get to know one another in authentic relationships that will lead to understanding, cooperation, and a greater impact on our community's most pressing issues.

Beginning in 2015, the Kaufman Interfaith Institute and its partners began an **Interfaith Service Council** – including congregations, non-profits, universities, secular organizations, and individuals. The committee helped plan interfaith service opportunities, individually or collectively, and K.I.I. helped provide interfaith service resources and expertise.

alliance

Story

- **Atheist**
- Southern Baptist family (estranged)
- Leader in college's SSA group
- **Interfaith Ministry** on campus
- **SSA is invited** to participate in dialogue
- Cal is **sole atheist representative**
 - **Flooded with Q's**
- No longer interested in interfaith engagement

Issues

- Language
- Representation
- Communication
- Understanding
- Trauma

Questions

References

- College Students' Appreciative Attitudes Toward Atheists
- Invisible, Marginalized, and Stigmatized: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Atheist Students
- <https://secularstudents.org/interfaith>
- <https://www.ifyc.org/resources/engaging-secular-students-interfaith-cooperation>
- Nontheistic Students on Campus: Understanding and Accommodating Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists, and Others
- College students say they care about interfaith cooperation – are school leaders listening?
- IFYC Emerging Interfaith Trends Report